



# Capital Notes

**Mike Armstrong**

State Representative • 12<sup>th</sup> District



May 2001

Dear friends,

I recently asked for your opinions on the issues that matter to you most. You and many other seniors took the time to share them with me, and an encouraging number of you asked for more information on a variety of issues. I appreciate that very much.

Your responses have given me a great deal of insight. Taxes and spending ranked as the issue of most importance (16.5 percent), but not by much: prescription drug costs was a close second (15.9 percent), with property taxes (15 percent) not far behind in third. When I looked at what you listed as the second most important issue, these same three choices also received the highest number of responses.

Controlling energy costs ranked fourth on the list of your top issues, followed by limiting state regulations, the Growth Management Act, preventing crime/public safety, and long-term care.

As I write this, we are approaching the end of a 30-day special legislative session called by the governor. Nearly all of this extra time has been spent voting on and negotiating budget proposals – in other words, taxes and spending, your most important issue. The Legislature can't adjourn without approving a set of state budgets for the next two years.

Already I have voted against a House of Representatives operating budget proposal that would have spent more revenue than the state expects to take in, and a proposed House transportation budget that didn't split spending fairly between Eastern Washington and Western Washington. As we move through the budget process, I will continue to stand up for responsible spending. I also will challenge the lawmakers who would prefer to raise your taxes, rather than require the state to stretch the most value from the tax dollars it already collects.

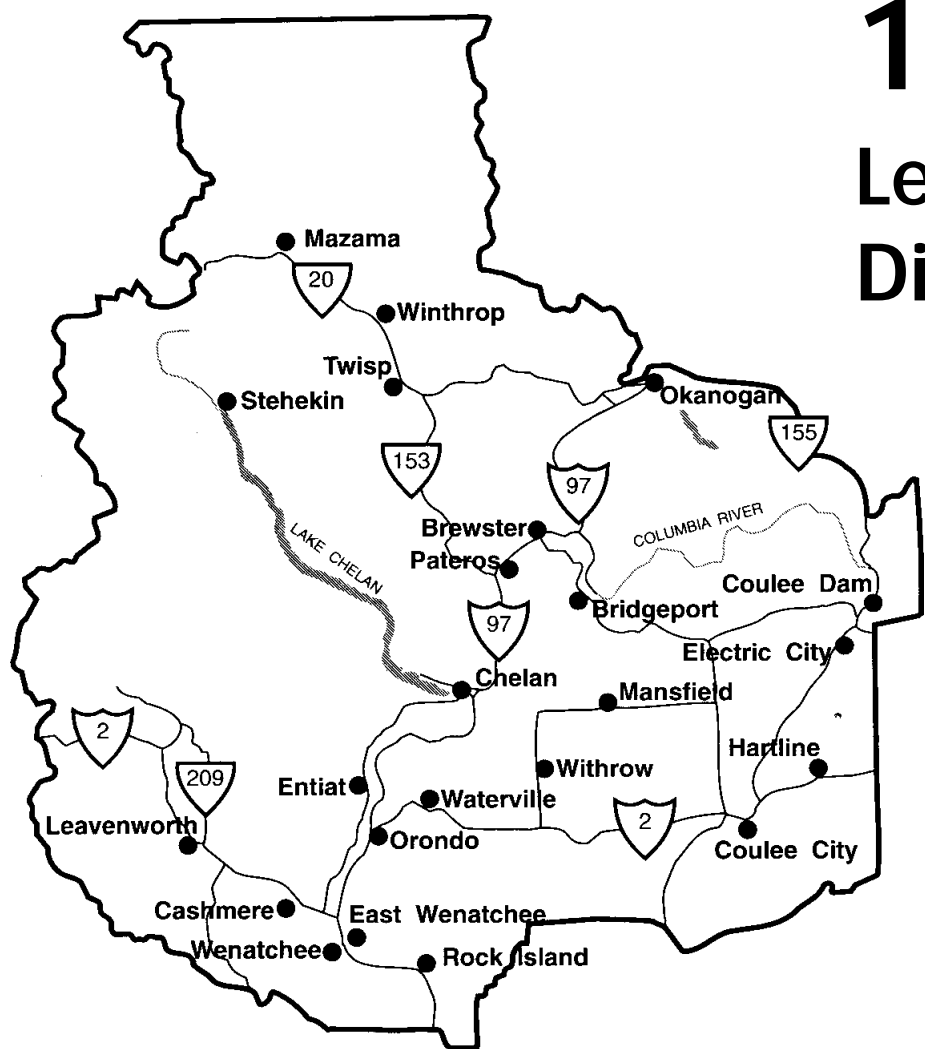
I wrote to you before of the immense debt of gratitude our state and nation owes to today's seniors. Your willingness to share your opinions with me is proof of your continued commitment to the prosperity of Washington and the United States, and I am grateful for it.

Again, I promise you that I will continue to do all that is possible to protect and improve the state services seniors deserve and have the right to expect.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Sincerely,

# 12th Legislative District



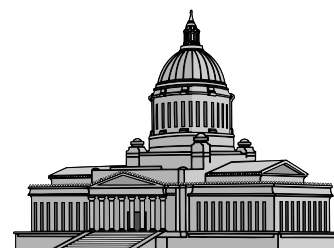
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